

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

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TAGS: SENV, IWC, UK
SUBJECT: MAJOR ISSUES AT 29TH MEETING, INTERNATIONAL
WHALING COMMISSION, CANBERRA, JUNE 20-24, 1977

REF: STATE 127607

1. SUMMARY: UK SUPPORTS U.S. VIEWS ON MOST MAJOR ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED AT SUBJECT MEETING. OFFICIALS WELCOME PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT BUT QUESTION RETURN TO APPEAL FOR 10-YEAR MORATORIUM. THEY ALSO GO BEYOND U.S. POSITION IN CALLING FOR SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE MEETINGS TO BE OPEN TO PRESS AND OTHER ACCREDITED OBSERVERS. END SUMMARY.

2. UK DELEGATION TO SUBJECT MEETING WILL BE LED BY FISHERIES SECRETARY JULIAN KELSEY OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD AND WILL INCLUDE SIDNEY BROWN, WHALE RESEARCH INSTITUTE; JOE HORWOOD, LOWESTOFT FISHERIES LABORATORIES; SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR DR. JOHN BEDDINGTON (POPULATION DYNAMICS EXPERT FROM UNIVERSITY OF YORK WHO IS WORKING ON MAXIMUM SUSTAINABLE YIELD QUESTIONS); CONSERVATION ADVISOR RICHARD FITTER; FAUNA PRESERVATION SOCIETY AND INDUSTRY ADVISOR WILLIAM HENDRY,
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HIGHGATE AND JOB LTD. (SPERM OIL REFINERS).

3. WE DISCUSSED U.S. VIEWS AS CONTAINED REFTTEL WITH UK IWC COMMISSIONER, MAFF OFFICIAL DR. TONY BURNE, JUNE 10. HE SAID UK APPRECIATES NEED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCIES TO PARTICIPATE IN WHALING DISCUSSIONS. THIS HAS LED TO UNPRECEDENTED INCLUSION OF A CONSERVATION ADVISOR ON THE UK

DELEGATION. IT ALSO REFLECTS GROWING COORDINATION BETWEEN MAFF WHALING OFFICIALS AND CONSERVATION GROUPS, E.G. THREE MEETINGS HAVE ALREADY BEEN HELD THIS YEAR WITH FRIENDS OF THE EARTH. FYI ONLY: WE UNDERSTAND THAT SERIOUS CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO SHIFTING RESPONSIBILITY FOR IWC FROM MAFF TO DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT SECTION CHARGED WITH ENDANGERED SPECIES CONVENTION. END FYI.

4. BURNE SAID THAT UK WILL FULLY SUPPORT U.S. POSITIONS ON SCIENTIFIC PERMITS AND RENEGOTIATION CONFERENCE. THEY FEEL IWC WORKING GROUP HAS GONE AS FAR AS IT CAN AND THAT FURTHER MEETINGS WILL ONLY CAUSE NEEDLESS DELAY. UK ALSO FIRMLY SUPPORTS NEW MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (NMP) AND HAS RAISED A NUMBER OF POINTS ON MAXIMUM SUSTAINABLE YIELD CONCEPT. UK DEL WILL EXPRESS NEED FOR GREAT CAUTION IN THIS AREA. FINALLY, UK SUPPORTS AND IN FACT GOES BEYOND U.S. POSITION ON OPENING MEETINGS TO PRESS AND OTHER ACCREDITED OBSERVERS.

5. UK FEELS THAT SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE MEETINGS SHOULD ALSO BE OPENED. THEY SEE NO REASON WHY OBSERVERS WHO ARE NOT ALLOWED TO SPEAK SHOULD DISRUPT SCIENCE COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS AND BELIEVE THAT HIGHLY TECHNICAL NATURE OF DISCUSSIONS WILL SOON CLEAR ROOM OF ALL BUT MOST SERIOUS OBSERVERS. UK DEL WILL DISCUSS THIS QUESTION WITH U.S. AND CANADIAN DELEGATIONS BEFORE DECIDING HOW TO PROCEED WHEN ISSUE ARISES UNDER AGENDA ITEM 4.

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6. BURNE EXPRESSED UK RESERVATIONS OVER TWO ITEMS. FIRST, MAFF AND FCO LEGAL ADVISORS HAVE DIFFICULTIES WITH PROPOSED U.S. RESOLUTION ON IMPORTS OF WHALE PRODUCTS ON TRADE GROUNDS, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF OECD OBLIGATIONS. BURNE WONDERES WHETHER IT IS BETTER TO USE CARROT OR STICK IN TRYING TO ENCOURAGE MEMBERSHIP IN IWC. HE WOULD PREFER THAT WE WAIT TO GAUGE GENERAL REACTION BEFORE APPLYING STICK. SECOND, BURNE REFERRED TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S SUPPORT FOR 10-YEAR MORATORIUM. HE QUESTIONED WISDOM OF RESURRECTING THIS ISSUE, AS STOCKS WHICH NEED IT ARE BEING PROTECTED. HE SAID THAT BY CONTINUALLY RAISING MORATORIUM, ONE RUNS RISK THAT WHALING NATIONS WILL SIMPLY PULL OUT OF IWC.

BREWSTER

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Disposition Event:
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